

I am an actively engaged U.S. citizen who derives a great deal of pleasure and knowledge from reading the daily paper. However, I find it increasingly difficult in this great country of ours to find a broad range of discussion on topics vital to my, and my neighbors', well-being. I find myself searching for 3, 4, and sometimes more media sources on a daily basis just to gain exposure to a healthy range of attitudes and opinions towards the news. I can imagine dozens of different perspectives and nuances to every situation I read about, and yet I have a difficult time finding these (sometimes obvious) unique perspectives reflected in the print in front of me. Every paper, radio station, and TV news channel, recycles virtually the same slant on the war, the economy, the environment, etc., and I wonder what is going on with all the other voices. I believe that this narrowing of public dialogue can be attributed, at least in part, to an unhealthy control of the media by corporate interests. Media conglomeration dilutes a complex dialogue among the U.S. citizenry concerning political issues, lifestyles, and general outlooks towards life. Diversity of thought in the media should not only be allowed, but fostered through initiatives that reverse the current trend of media clustering around corporate conglomerates, and encourage the development of independent media sources. Hundreds of years ago, Jefferson envisioned a healthy republic where the media serves as a critical voice that illuminates the minds of the populous - a vision which I believe is only possible in a nation that firmly regulates corporate control of media. Thank you for listening to my opinion, Nick Grener